



# EMPG Steering Committee Meeting Notes

---

Meeting notes from April 6, 2016

PARTICIPANTS		
Heather Baxter	Mike Custer (Representing Tim Ocnaschek)	Joe Ferro
Richard Gonzalez	Danielle Hale	Kimberly Jones
Chief Nim Kidd	Dale Little	Juan Ortiz
Glenda Piazza (Representing Tim Ocnaschek)	Lisa Resendez	Lawrence Trevino
Susan Vessell	Aeris Williams	
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kimberly Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting and took roll.</li> </ul>		
STAFF REPORT – TDEM STAFF		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Texas Emergency Management Advisory Committee (TEMAC) Reorganization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TDEM staff introduced the committee to the purpose and goals behind the TEMAC reorganization process. (<u>Please see attached PowerPoint presentation for more detail</u>).</li> <li>Emphasized that the change in overall structure does not mean the committee themselves will cease to “be who they are now.”</li> <li>Explained that the First Responder Advisory Council (FRAC), the School Safety Task Force, and the Drought Preparedness Council are each legislatively mandated, and therefore will have some different reporting considerations under the new structure.</li> <li>Noted that the committees were each grouped together under one of three larger umbrellas based on subject matter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EMPG Steering Committee would fall under the FRAC umbrella.</li> <li><b>*Update:</b> after the EMPG meeting occurred, it was decided that no other organization should sit underneath FRAC due to the legislative mandate considerations. Therefore, EMPG Steering Committee will now fall directly under TEMAC.*</li> <li>Please keep in mind that “falling under” does not denote a change in command structure, EMPG Steering Committee does not report to FRAC or TEMAC. It is for information sharing purposes only.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Should the new structure be implemented, the idea would be for EMPG and the other committees to provide situational awareness reports on their current activities during the larger TEMAC meeting.</li> <li>Meetings would be open for any committee member to attend and participate in the discussion.</li> <li>TDEM leadership has made a commitment to try to be at as many of the TEMAC meetings as possible.</li> <li>Finally, one of the other components to this process is the development of a formal recommendations process, by which committees (through TEMAC) would pass written recommendations up to TDEM leadership, and in return receive a written response from TDEM within a set period of time.</li> <li><b>Question:</b> Is the goal to align the meeting times and dates for all the committees? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes. If anyone is familiar with the Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC), this newly proposed system is partially based on how they function. GETAC meets as one large group periodically throughout the year, for example at the Texas EMS Conference. During that time, each of the GETAC committees and working groups also convene, then brief out to the larger GETAC at the end of the event. This proposal would mimic that approach.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Question:</b> Is there a legislative mandate for EMPG? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. EMPG is not legislatively mandated.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Comment:</b> Believe the restructuring ideas is a good one, will hopefully help with some of the duplicative efforts among the various committees and help keep members “honest” about attending only one to two meetings a year.</li> </ul> </li></ul>		
PURPOSE AND MEMBERSHIP MAKE-UP OF COMMITTEE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TDEM leadership met with the committee to listen to and address the various concerns expressed about the purpose and membership of the committee.</li> <li>Members present reiterated that they believe EMPG has accomplished its original purpose, and are</li> </ul>		

not certain where the committee should now focus its efforts.

- Sentiment of the group was that if the original purpose is accomplished, and there are no new additional EMPG-related issues, then the group should be disbanded.
- TDEM leadership emphasized that the group's concerns were heard, but was also reluctant to disband the committee in the event EMPG-related issues arise in the future. Do not want to form a new committee from scratch if that occurs.
- Based on the feedback from TDEM leadership, the members present explored the idea of becoming a working group rather than a committee.
- Becoming a working group would require members to meet less frequently; but keeps the subject matter expertise, built by the committee over the last few years, intact.
- After discussion, the group took a vote with the unanimous decision to begin the process of becoming a working group under the new TEMAC reorganization process.
- Specific to membership, since the group will be essentially reforming as a new entity, membership is something that can be taken into account in the reformatting process.
- TDEM leadership would like to continue seeing the diverse mix of individuals, currently represented on the committee, be represented on the working group. This includes representatives from each of the DPS regions, representatives from both urban and frontier communities, representatives who part of the EMPG program, and representatives who are not part of the program.

#### **OTHER ISSUES**

- Members present asked if it would be possible to develop some form of recognition (such as a plaque or certificate) to recognize individuals who have served on the various committees and councils?
- TDEM leadership indicated that this was a good request, and that TDEM will explore ways to make it happen.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- TDEM staff will send out notes from this meeting.
- An updated version of the TDEM Reorganization document (provided as a handout) will also be sent out shortly.
  - Please provide feedback on the reorganization process as soon as possible, to allow TDEM to continue moving forward with the reorganization.
- Begin the process of changing to a working group, which will include:
  - Drafting new charter/mission.
  - Setting membership parameters.
  - Steps to change into a working group will likely need to be done in conjunction with TEMAC leadership, as the working group will now fall under their purview.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

- TBD